

School Food Services NEWS

FALL 2009

In this issue

2009 District of the Year Award

Lee's Summit School District was named the School Nutrition Association's 2009 District of the Year and was honored as the best school nutrition program in the country at the School Nutrition Association's conference in June. The conference was held in Las Vegas, Nev. The district received an award of \$25,000. Congratulations to Lee's Summit School District!

In addition, Jane Hentzler, food service director for Lee's Summit, was named the School Nutrition Association's 2009 Midwest Region Outstanding Director of the Year. Congratulations to Jane!

Thank you to Lee's Summit School District and Jane Hentzler for their dedication to providing nutritious meals and nutrition education to the children and community of Lee's Summit.



2 ♦ Direct Certification

2008-2009 Coordinated Review Effort (CRE) Results

Love Your Veggies

National School Lunch Week

3 ♦ New Fluid Milk Substitution Rule

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Missouri School Nutrition Association Needs You

4 ♦ Extending Categorical Eligibility to Additional Children in a Household

Verification of Approved Applications for Free and Reduced Price Meal Benefits

Missouri Coordinated School Health Coalition News Forum

Upcoming Event: Coordinated School Health Coalition Annual Conference

National School Lunch Week Proclamation



National School Lunch Week 2009 was October 12-16. The proclamation signing with Governor Jay Nixon was held on September 23. In attendance from left to right: Jill Rehagen, accounting analyst, School Food Services, and daughter Hunter; Pat Kaiser, supervisor, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Joanie Romero, secretary, School Food Services, and daughter Paige; Karen Wooton, coordinator,

School Food Services; Marie Heistand, president, Missouri School Nutrition Association and secretary, food and nutrition services, Hickman Mills C-1 School District; Governor Jay Nixon; Barbara and Leland Finley and grandchildren Finley and Nashua Bickford; and Dana Doerhoff, assistant director, School Food Services.

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<http://www.dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/staff.html>



The *School Food Services News* is published three times per year (fall, winter and spring) and is available on the School Food Services Web page.

Direct Certification

The Reauthorization Act of 2004 required that all LEAs in the National School Lunch Program implement direct certification. Direct certification simply means that children from families approved to receive food stamps or temporary assistance are automatically approved to receive free meals (for both breakfast and lunch) without having to complete an application. If your LEA has not conducted direct certification for this school year, please do so. For more information visit School Food Services Web site at <http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/Handbooks.htm>.

2008-2009 Coordinated Review Effort (CRE) Results

During the 2008-2009 school year, the School Food Services Section conducted 143 CRE reviews. Eight of the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) did not meet Performance Standard 1, which evaluates student eligibility determinations and meal counting and claiming procedures for accuracy. All LEAs reviewed met Performance Standard 2, which evaluates meals on the day of review for meal component completeness. Please take extra care when determining student eligibility, meal counting and claiming, and monitoring meals for required components to ensure that the LEA is providing the State Agency with an accurate count of reimbursable free, reduced price and paid meals served.

As one of the final implementations of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, the State Agency is required to conduct Additional Administrative Reviews (AARs) each year. During the 2008-2009 School Year, eight AARs were conducted. The districts selected were Hancock Place, Wellston, Mehlville R-IX, Willard R-II, Rolla 31, Reeds Spring R-IV, Carl Junction R-I, and Poplar Bluff R-I. All districts passed the review. Great job!

During the 2009-2010 school year, eight additional LEAs will be selected for an AAR. LEAs selected will be contacted soon.

Love Your Veggies

The makers of Hidden Valley® Salad Dressings are now accepting applications for the 2009-10 Love Your Veggies™ grant program. With support from its partner, the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF), the grant program will once again seek to help schools execute innovative programs that will increase the accessibility to and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables in the lunchroom. Each grant award will support an elementary school in developing a program offering fresh vegetables and fruits through the 2010-2011 school year. Each school grant will consist of \$10,000 in direct funding.

Funding must be spent on any of the following:

- Fresh produce (vegetables and fruits)
- A vegetable station (such as a dedicated salad bar)
- Kitchen equipment (primary usage must relate to proposed program)
- Program staffing (cafeteria personnel, lunchroom staff, etc.)
- Nutrition education supplies
- Food safety training

For more information on Love Your Veggies grant program, visit <http://www.loveyourveggies.com/guidelines.php>.



National School Lunch Week

National School Lunch Week (NSLW) was October 12-16, 2009. This year's theme was "All Star School Lunch." NSLW 2009 is supported by the Milk Processor Education Program (MilkPEP), and this year's event will extend an exciting partnership between MilkPEP and the National Basketball Association (NBA). For more information on National School Lunch Week, visit the School Nutrition Association's Web site at www.schoolnutrition.org/allstar.

Serving Meals During H1N1 School Closures

If school closes because of an outbreak of the H1N1 flu, LEAs will be permitted to continue providing reimbursable meals to children enrolled in the closed schools. For more information, visit the School Food Services Web site at <http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/index.html>.

New Fluid Milk Substitution Rule

Schools in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program have the option to offer a nondairy milk substitute to a student with a medical or special dietary need other than a disability. For information about the new Fluid Milk Substitution Rule, visit the School Food Services Web site at <http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/documents/MilkSubstitutionRule.pdf>.

USDA's memo SP 35-2009 addresses Q&As for milk substitutions for children with medical or special dietary needs in non-disability cases. View the Q&As at www.dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/documents/FluidMilkSubstitutionsintheSchoolNutritionProgramsQA.pdf.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program



The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides all children in participating schools an opportunity to snack on fresh fruits and/or vegetables throughout the school day at no charge to

the children. During the 2008-09 school year, 11 LEAs with 55 buildings participated and received funding in the amount of \$933,278. During the 2009-2010 school year, 18 LEAs with 84 buildings are receiving funding in the amount of \$1,398,608. For more information on the FFVP, go to School Food Services Web site at http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/FFVP_Index.html.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Public Law 111-5, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 27. The ARRA provided a one-time appropriation of \$1.8 million for equipment assistance to school food authorities in the state of Missouri. ARRA grant funds were requested by 363 LEAs, with 26 LEAs approved. Grant funds were requested by 768 buildings, with 57 buildings approved. Requests were made for 2,426 pieces of equipment, with 198 pieces of equipment approved. Funding requests totaling \$18,336,891.68 were received, with only \$1.8 million available.

Missouri School Nutrition Association Needs You

An association is nothing without its members and MSNA/SNA works hard to provide its members with many valuable services and benefits that meet today's needs and concerns.

MSNA/SNA has been advancing the availability, quality and acceptance of school nutrition programs as an integral part of education for more than 60 years. MSNA/SNA provides members with education and training; sets standards; gathers and imparts regulatory, legislative, industry, nutritional and other types of information related to school nutrition; and represents the nutritional interests of children.

MSNA/SNA seeks to offer members professional development through many programs and services. For example, MSNA offers Healthy Edge or Serve Safe, the two ten-hour courses needed for certification, as pre-conference sessions every year at our state conference. These programs were specifically designed for the school nutrition professional.

To find out more information about becoming a member of the Missouri School Nutrition Association and the School Nutrition Association please visit our Web site at www.mosna.org or contact our membership chair at joy.chartrau@washingt.k12.mo.us.



Making the right food choices, together.

Extending Categorical Eligibility to Additional Children in a Household

LEAs recently received a memorandum addressing the United States Department of Agriculture's new policy relating to categorical eligibility for students receiving free meals. As noted in the memorandum, LEAs can now extend eligibility to all children in the household if one child's name is on the direct certification list or has a food stamp number on their application. For more information, refer to <http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/documents/extendingcategorical eligibility.pdf>.



Missouri Coordinated School Health Coalition News Forum

The Missouri Coordinated School Health Coalition has launched the MCSHC Current News and Discussion Forum. For articles, tips, resources, success stories and an events calendar, visit the MCSHC Web site at www.healthykidsmo.org and click on News Forum.

Verification of Approved Applications for Free and Reduced Price Meal Benefits

Verification is confirmation of eligibility for free and reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program. Verification must include either confirmation of income eligibility or confirmation that the child is included in a certified Food Stamp household or Temporary Assistance unit. When a household responds that they no longer wish to receive benefits, rather than submitting the income documentation, they are considered a non-response. Please refer to the Verification Guidance at http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/PDF/VERTIFICATION_GUIDANCE.pdf. This document contains helpful information and sample letters to assist in accurately completing verification.

As a reminder, LEAs must verify at least as many applications calculated by the sample formula, but may do no more. While the verification sample cannot exceed the statutory limits, LEAs still have an obligation to verify questionable applications for cause. This may include, but is not limited to, situations where school officials have knowledge of household circumstances that would cause them to verify the information on the application.

Students who are categorically eligible because their sibling or other household member is listed on the direct certification list would be considered exempt from verification, as well as the student listed on the direct certification list.

Verification must be completed by Nov. 15, and LEAs must complete and submit the Free or Reduced Price Lunch Verification Summary Report to the State Agency by Dec. 15.

If you have questions regarding verification, please contact the State Agency at (573) 751-3526 or refer to the Verification Guidance.

Upcoming Event

Coordinated School Health Coalition Annual Conference

The annual Coordinated School Health Coalition annual conference is scheduled for Dec. 4-5, 2009, at the Lodge of Four Seasons Resort, Lake Ozark. For more information, visit www.healthykidsmo.org/conferences/index.php.